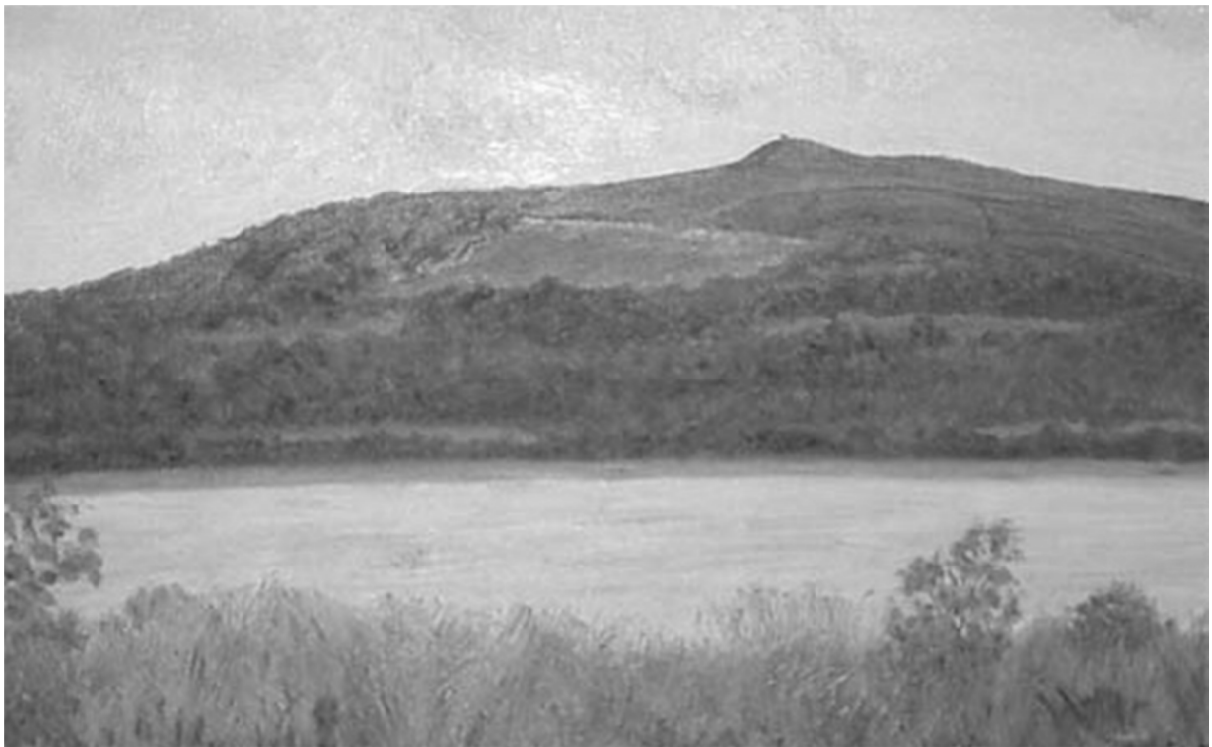


MANOR OF RIVINGTON LANCASHIRE

BY PAUL LACEY, 2nd draft 2011

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The Manor of Rivington was a former manor estate located in Rivington, Lancashire, England. The title, Lord of the Manor was not used; instead the majority share owners like Robert Andrews used the title Squire. The Manor was held by a number of families from the 13th century. The Manor rights and land separated in 1900 and today United Utilities although the majority land owner due to the method of their acquisition do not own any rights of the Manor.[1]

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Descent of the Manor

The descent of the Manor of Rivington commenced around 1212 when the Pilkington family owned six oxgangs of land. Over time the Rivington Manor became separated in moieties and by the 16th century the Pilkingtons of Rivington Hall owned a 5/8 share.

There were legal disputes relating to the will of Robert Pilkington who died 17 November 1605. The sale agreement for Rivington Hall retained New Hall and lands in the village to remain in Pilkington ownership whilst Rivington Hall was sold to their in-laws the Breres in association with the Levers of Little Lever. It was the Pilkington 5/8 share of land at Rivington that was bought by W.H Lever in 1900 and later sold to Liverpool Corporation and it is on old Pilkington land that Lever Park was created. The Anderton family also owned a 300 year lease on a significant portion of the Pilkington Manor and estate signed by James Pilkington 17 Jan 1605, the lease had not reverted until 1905 and the descendants had not been made aware of the reversion until decades later.

In this period the Lathom family of Irlam owned 2/8 and the Shaw family of Rivington, Heath Charnock and Anglezarke owned 1/8. Over the years, and to the present day, these other portions remained separate. As can be seen from the descent of the Manor many families now living have a vested interest in the Manor and despite a popular myth that originated around the turn of the Twentieth century that W.H Lever had bought all of Rivington Manor the evidence that follows shows otherwise.

Pilkington of Rivington Hall

The Pilkingtons were step brothers of the Rivingtons and a grant of land is made in 1202 [2][3] In 1212 the Pilkington family held of King John of England in thanage six oxgangs of land at a rent of 10s.[4] In 1324 Roger de Pilkington held seven-eighths of the manor at a rent of 8s. 9d while Richard de Hulton held the other eighth for 1s. 3d. p.a.[5] This partition appears again in 1445 [6]

A grant of land occurred in 1250: a grant of land from Simon de Rivington to William of Brownhill grants all his land in winterhold [7]. The earlier tenants' lists for Rivington establish who were holders of the lands but does not prove who lived there. It is assumed Alexander de Pilkington would have lived elsewhere. In a tenants list of 1240 we find Alexander de Pilkington, William de Rivington, Richard de Gamelslegh, William de Knoll, John de Broadhurst, Robert de Asshawe. A lay subsidy of 1327 gives us the names of the inhabitants as Robert Pilkington, Adam son of Robert, Alexander son of Hugh, William Bradshaw, John Erlegh, John Gameleslegh and a lay subsidy of 1332 names Robert Pilkington, Adam son of Robert, William Broadhurst, William Gamelslegh, John Erlegh and John son of Mabel. Through this information we can see that the Pilkingtons were in residence after 1327. There is then little detail of the occupancy at Rivington Hall until 1478 when we find Robert Pilkington arranging to build a more spacious house.

There are various families in ownership of the manor of Rivington from the very earliest records to modern day. However one family had the largest portion of the Manor for the longest period, the Pilkington family of Rivington held the majority until the death of Robert Pilkington in 1605. The senior line of the Pilkington family had sided with the losing side at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and the family's lands were confiscated. The Rivington estate was not part of the lands confiscated.

The best known of this family is James Pilkington, first Protestant Bishop of Durham, born at Rivington c. 1518 the son of Richard Pilkington of Rivington Hall and Alice Asshawe. The family of Alice Asshawe owned a one eighth share of the manor, later another branch of the family were to acquire the New Hall estate by marriage. On the death of Richard Pilkington in 1551 the estate passed to his son George who continued to live at New Hall in the village of Rivington. It was on the death of George Pilkington 1597 that the estate passed to his son Robert.[8] The family are pictured in the Pilkington painting and a full transcription of the text and details of the arms are provided in the article about Bishop James Pilkington.

In 1600 Robert Pilkington made an agreement to buy up the life leases of the occupants of Rivington Old Hall estates for £4000 [8] and in 1601 risked the estate by using it as surety for a debt of £250 to William Bispham, a Citizen of London. Robert defaulted 25 July 1601 and Rivington and other lands except his manor of Walton-le-Dale were passed by several writs to William Bisham to settle this debt[9]

Robert Pilkington died 17 November 1605 at Rivington and made his last will 16 November the same year. In his will he directed his body be buried at the Rivington Church among his ancestors [10] The period of the next few years, after Robert's death were to see much litigation. William Bispham had left his own affairs in bad order and on his death his brother James Bispham had no choice but to sell off his brother's estates.

In the Inquisition Post Mortem of Robert Pilkington 12 March 7th year of James I 1610 upon oath it was stated on 6 July 43rd year of Elizabeth I, 1601 was seized of his demesne of his manor of Rivington or Rovington and of 24 messuages, 4 cottages, 300 acres (1.21 km²; 0.47 sq. mi) of land, 100 acres (0.40 km²; 0.16 sq. mi) of meadow, 40 acres (0.16 km²; 0.06 sq. mi) of pasture, 20 acres (0.08 km²; 0.03 sq. mi) of wood, 500 acres (2.02 km²; 0.78 sq. mi) of furze and heath, 200 acres (0.81 km²; 0.31 sq. mi) of moor, 500 acres (2.02 km²; 0.78 sq. mi) of moss with appurtenances in Rivington or Rovington, Heath Charnock and Walton-le-Dale.

In the will of Robert Pilkington in 1605 he leaves sums of money to a number of parties but he left the Rivington estate and his other lands to Richard Hutton, Sergeant-at-law, his executor, to have the residue of his estate after his debts and legacies are discharged, he also appoints Thomas Tyldesley as second executor, he then leaves his sister Katherine £100, the 25 marks (£16-13-4d in sterling) per year to his brother James, his sister Alice £20, Thomas Warburton £3 6s 8d per year and annexed a schedule of his debts to his will.

The eventual sale of freehold of a large portion of the Rivington Old Hall estate was agreed 30 March 1611. The Old Hall Estate was sold to Robert Lever and Thomas Breres brother of John Breres for £1730. Within this sale agreement a large house called New Hall, alias Ferneley was retained from the sale along with the Barne Flatt, the North Church Hill, South Church Hill, the Riding, the Great Meadow, the Middle Meadow, the Half Acre, the Cow Lane, the Rush Riding, the Ryding lying to the west of the new alehouse, the Mylne Croft, the land to Bullough Moor for the benefit of Katherine Pilkington and her heirs.[11]



Arms of the Pilkington Family of Lancashire.

Lathom of Irlam

In 1347 Roger de Westleigh of Irlam, Emma his wife, and Adam de Birkhead or Birkenhead of Wigan claimed the fourth part of two messuages in Rivington against Robert de Rivington, Richard his son, and others.[12] Three years earlier Roger son of Roger de Westleigh and Emma his wife had made a settlement of the fifth part of the manor of Rivington in favour of their son Richard[13]

In 1640 after the death of Edmund Lathom the inquisition stated, George the deceased's grandfather held a quarter of Rivington Manor of the Crown and made a settlement in 1570.[14] George Lathom of Huyton and his wife Elizabeth were engaged in suits with Richard Pilkington and others in 1549 and 1550, regarding Moldesfield and land in Rivington. Hyefurth House at Deane Head was part of the Lathom estate and the legal action continues until 1614. Eventually Thomas Lathom son of George Lathom was granted 50 acres (0.20 km²; 0.08 sq. mi) in settlement.[15]

In 1683 the 50 acres (0.20 km²; 0.08 sq. mi) mentioned as settlement to the Lathoms in 1614 was sold within the following document: Bargain and Sale by Lease and Release: (i) Thomas Lathom of Irelom, sq., associated with Thomas Ashurst of Ashurst, esq., and Ralph Egerton of Turton, gent., to (ii) John Bradley of Rivington, gent., for £120 to T.L. and 5/- apiece to T.A. and R.E. -- messuages, closes and parcels of land in Rivington 50 acres (0.20 km²; 0.08 sq. mi) moiety of waste ground in Rivington belonging to T.L., and moiety of messuages, cottages etc., in Rivington where T.L. has freehold.[16]



Dean Wood, Rivington

Shaw of Rivington, Heath Charnock and Anglezarke

John Shaw was defendant in Rivington cases in 1507, 1528, and 1545[17] relating to the eighth part previously held by the Hultons. Robert Shaw, son and heir of Thomas Shaw made a settlement of the eighth part of the manor of Rivington and other lands in 1606.[18]

At the start of the seventeenth century five eighths remained with the Pilkington family of Rivington.[19] while a quarter of the Rivington Manor was held by the Lathoms of Irlam and the other eighth by the Shaws of Heath Charnock. The division of the manor is illustrated at the enclosure of the manorial waste land in 1536, out of 20 acres (0.08 km²; 0.03 sq. mi), Richard Pilkington had 13 acres (0.05 km²; 0.02 sq. mi), James Shaw 3 acres (0.01 km²; 0.00 sq. mi), and George Lathom 4 acres (0.0162 km²; 0.0062 sq. mi).[20]

This 1/8th held by the Shaws was sold in 1656 to John Risley of Risley to raise funds for recovery from the English Civil War. Peter Shaw Jnr bought back the estate in 1663, the same was again sold some time later and again purchased back in 1671 from John Breres, father of the John Breres who died 1667, for £200.[21],[22] Robert Lever and John Breres were involved in a legal dispute in 1684 with Peter Shaw for tithe corn and hay.[23]

At the beginning of the eighteenth century due to extended legal disputes over rights to lead mines at Anglezarke Peter Shaw of Shaw Place, Heath Charnock and his son Thomas became in debt and in order to recover for these debts sold their estate to Hugh, 12th Lord Willoughby of Parham. On his death in 1712 Hugh, 12th Lord Willoughby left the lands bought from Peter Shaw to his nephew Edward, 13th Lord Willoughby who died 1713. The estate then passed to his son Charles, 14th Lord Willoughby who died in 1715 to pass to his son Hugh, 15th Lord Willoughby on who's death in 1765 half of his estate passed to his sister Elizabeth who had married John Shaw of Stones House Anglezarke, while the other half passed to his sister Helena who married Baxter Roscoe of Anglezarke.[22]

In 1734 a lease was agreed by Hugh Lord Willoughby of large tracts of land that were once owned by Rivington School. The land forms the slope leading to the Pike Tower. The farms Higher Knowle and Lower Knowle in Rivington, Darbyshires and Lathoms tenements in Rivington were a significant part of the Rivington area.[24] This document shows that a lease was agreed for one year for amongst other lands various other messuages belonging to Lord Willoughby in Rivington and on Rivington Moor.



Higher Knowl, 1905



Higher Knowl (Higher Knoll) Farm at time of publication.



Shaw Family Graves, Rivington Unitarian Chapel, c 1900

Death of Lord Willoughby

On the death of Hugh Willoughby, 15th Lord Willoughby of Parham in 1765 he died without issue and his heiresses were his sisters Helen Roscoe and Elizabeth Shaw. Some land in Rivington and Anglezarke was disposed of by heiresses; the remaining estate held by Rt. Hon. Elizabeth Shaw is detailed in her will of 1787. The will distributes the Rivington freeholds as follows: Pilkington's 2 roods and 24 perches to George Shaw eldest son, Hammers 21 acres (0.08 km²; 0.03 sq. mi) 35 perches to Charles Shaw, Lower Knowle 27 acres (0.11 km²; 0.04 sq mi) 3 roods to John Shaw, Jepsons 31 acres (0.13 km²; 0.05 sq. mi) 31 perches to Daniel Shaw including rivulet. Higher Knowle 30 acres (0.12 km²; 0.05 sq. mi) 1 rood and Darbyshires 8 acres (0.03 km²; 0.01 sq. mi) 1 rood 20 perches to daughter Jane Barker, with half of Higher Knowle estate kept in trust for heirs of Ann Hart Brownlows 14 acres (0.06 km²; 0.02 sq. mi) 1 rood daughter Betty Higson, Browns 2 acres (0.01 km²; 0.00 sq. mi) 10 perches and Shaw spot in Pilkington's estate 2 roods 24 perches to Joseph Hatton. Only one lease at Rivington is mentioned being for Sales at a size of 10 acres (0.04 km²; 0.02 sq. mi) for 99 years the freehold there being held by Robert Andrews.[25] In the mid 1990's the incorporeal rights of the manor of Rivington inherited by descendants of the Shaws were transferred to a local family, the Brownlow family are related to the original Shaws of Lancashire, the transfer was a sale of rights without land and did not become registered as an overriding interest.



Grave of Lord Willoughby of Parham, Horwich Parish Church. The Church was rebuilt, further back to its original position at Church St, Horwich the site would have been inside the original Church.

Anderton

In 1605 in the second year of James I dated 17 January, James Pilkington of Rivington, born c. 1575, brother of Roger Pilkington and heir to the estate agreed a 300 year lease of his Manor of Rivington to James Anderton of Lostock. This lease was followed by an indenture on 1 March the same year for the alienation of 300 years of James Pilkington from any claim to his Manor for an amount of 5 marks during his lifetime. The lease ran its course. In the will of Robert Pilkington dated 17 November 1605 he leaves 25 Marks (£16-13-4d in sterling) to James Pilkington his brother on condition James does not block his will.

Breres of Rivington Hall

The Breres family can be traced back many years and have an entry within The Visitation of 1613,[26] the family were prominent members of the Preston Guild and in 1397 the family appear as master skinnners and farriers, later the Breres are recorded as burgesses. In connection with Rivington the brothers Thomas Breres and John Breres are most prominent. There were four brothers, Henry, Thomas, John and Edmund who were sons of Alexander Breres whose wife was Ellyn, daughter of Thomas Gellybrand of Chorley. In 1582 Thomas Breres was Steward of the Guild and in 1602 John Breres was Clerk of the Guild. Their brother Henry became Steward of the Guild in 1622. John Breres was granted Martin Hall in 1612 and one of the window panes dated 1614 bore the heraldry of John Breres and his wife Katherine Shaw, daughter of Thomas Shaw of Heath Charnock. Their brother Henry Breres was Mayor of Preston for 1611, 1618, 1627 and 1637. During the Civil War, Alexander Breres, son of John [27] initially supported Lord Derby and was garrisoned at Lathom House but during the first siege of Lathom House, in March 1644, he switched sides and became part of Cromwell's army. His name appeared on the Recusant Roll for West Derby Hundred in 1641. Breres are recorded as being at Martin Hall until 1663. Robert Breres was reckoned to be amongst the gentry of West Derby in 1688. Other members of the Breres family have been recorded as living at several other prestigious addresses, including, Buckshaw Hall, Euxton, Walton Old Hall, Walton, Rivington (Rivyngton) Ould Hall, Owing part of Duxbury manor, near Chorley.

At Rivington a sale of lands to John Breres is mentioned within the Inquisition Post Mortem of Robert Pilkington 1610 in which it is stated that on 29 August 1603 Robert Pilkington had sold to John Breres 3 messuages, 1 cottage, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 70 acres (0.28 km²; 0.11 sq. mi) of land, 30 acres (0.12 km²; 0.05 sq. mi) of meadow, 80 acres (0.32 km²; 0.12 sq. mi) of pasture, 6 acres (0.02 km²; 0.01 sq. mi) of wood, 120 acres (0.49 km²; 0.19 sq. mi) of furze and heath and 100 acres (0.40 km²; 0.16 sq. mi) of moor with appurtenances in Rivington of which Robert Pilkington was seized on 6 July 1601. Within the sale of 1611 an estate is reserved for Katherine Pilkington and in addition we see that the estate of John Breres at Rivington was purchased in 1603, the remainder was sold on 30 March 1611 to Robert Lever and Thomas Breres brother of John Breres. In 1667, John Breres mentions in his will in 1667 that he had mortgaged his interests in 'Rivington Ould Hall' in 1617 after the death of his Uncle Thomas Breres to James Pilkington of Heaton Rhodes, Gent and William Pilkington of Wigan, Gent, these two men were the relatives of his wife Elizabeth Pilkington, the wife of John Breres, Elizabeth's father was William Pilkington, then Mayor of Wigan and her Uncle was Rev James Pilkington of Heaton Rhodes.

John Breres also mentions his wife Elizabeth and brother William in his will. The Breres family lived

at the old Hall the last being William and his wife Martha Gill. William Breres died in 1723 and the estate passed to John their son. This John Breres sold his ownership of the Rivington Old Hall estate in 1729 to John Andrews who had inherited his share from the Levers[28].

Features of the old Hall include date stones placed there by the owners as each addition was made to the property. A date stone of 1694 with the initials WB is located over a doorway at the rear of the house and this is thought to have been placed there by William Breres. A further date stone is located in the courtyard with the initials WMB dated 1700, the date stone is of William and Martha Breres. Over the old stable door was a further date stone of 1713 with the initials WMIB. On the stable door is carved A.I.A. 1732 and this was placed there by John Andrews.

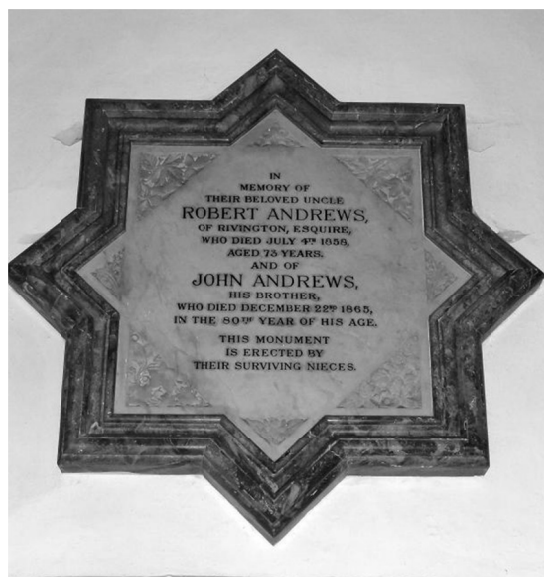


Lever of Little Lever

Robert Lever, the purchaser in 1611 with Thomas Breres died in 1620 and in 1617 had already given his moiety of the Rivington estate to his youngest son Robert who had settled in London. His son Robert never married and his estate passed to a nephew, another Robert, son of his brother James. This Robert Lever had one daughter called Jane who in 1648 had married John Andrews of Little Lever, Bolton.

Andrews of Rivington Hall

Robert Lever who died in 1688 left the estate to his daughter Jane Andrews and subsequently on his death the estate passed to John Andrews who died without male issue in 1743.



Andrews Memorial inside Rivington Unitarian Chapel.

The Andrews crest was the moors head in profile adorned with an earring [29]. The Andrews family owned slaves and displayed a trophy of an Africans Black O Moores Head which gave name to the former Public house once located in the village, demolished in the early twentieth century [29]

In 1729 John Andrews purchased the Breres portion of the estate and in 1732 commenced work on the Pike Tower completing this in 1733, the building was erected as a shelter for hunting parties.

As can be seen there were various families in ownership of Rivington. On page 51 of A Short History of Rivington, 1904 a book sponsored by W. H. Lever, the author states that John Andrews in 1729 became sole Lord of the Manor, a statement that is clearly wrong; the statement was repeated in the section about the Pike Tower. John Andrews is most likely to have become sole owner of the Rivington Hall, rather than the Manor.

Wilson, Fletcher and Andrews-Crompton

On the death of John Andrews the estate passed to his daughter Abigail who had married Joseph Wilson of Bolton. Joseph Wilson died in 1765. The estate then passed to another Robert Andrews. It was this Robert Andrews who built the great red brick Georgian house we see today. Robert Andrews died in 1793 and the property passed to his son Robert who died unmarried in 1858, the estate then passed to his brother John who died without issue in 1865. The estate then passed to the sister Hannah Maria Andrews who had married Robert Fletcher of Liverpool. Their daughter Lucy married Woodhouse Crompton in 1834. The Cromptons remained resident until 1910 although they had sold the land in 1900 to W. H. Lever.

After W.H. Lever had bought estate, it is suggested some of his purchase deeds were destroyed in a fire at his bungalow at Rivington in 1913, no deeds of sale of Manorial rights to W.H Lever exist and non have ever been published or transcribed.



Crompton Memorial inside Rivington Unitarian Chapel.

William Hesketh Lever

In 1900 the Cromptons sold the Rivington Hall estate to W. H. Lever, founder of Lever Brothers, but the Crompton family were resident until 1910 by way of a short lease. Their son founded the Horwich Unitarian Free Church.

In 1901 the area of the township is stated as 2,768 acres (11.20 km²; 4.32 sq. mi) of which reservoirs and filter beds occupy about 275 acres (1.11 km²; 0.43 sq. mi). The sale to W. H Lever in 1900 was for 2,100 acres (8.50 km²; 3.28 sq. mi). 360 acres (1.46 km²; 0.56 sq. mi) of land was later laid out as a park for the people of Bolton.



Lord Leverhulme

Salmon

The Rivington Hall and Barn were amongst buildings used as bases for troops and storage in World War II. After the war Rivington Hall was derelict and was restored by Mr Salmon who from 1953 until his death held a lease for Rivington Hall Barn. In the period shortly after World War II the local authorities were not able to find funds to maintain large buildings. Without his intervention the Rivington Hall and Barn could have faced demolition as was the fate of many other grand buildings that once existed around Rivington and in its bordering towns.[30]



Rivington Hall, 1950 when it was being considered for demolition after World War II

William John Salmon (5 Nov 1899 - 28 Jul. 1988) was born at Cork, Ireland 5 November 1899 and his family moved to Adlington in 1800. He was educated locally and left school age 13 in 1912 and then commenced work as a coal miner, followed by a period employed at the Horwich Loco works and also later working in Doncaster before he opened a Cafe at Adlington. William Salmon married his wife Rhoda in 1950 and by 1953 with a prosperous business he was able to take over the then badly neglected Rivington Hall and Barn which the family renovated back to its former glory. William Salmon was awarded the Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellowship and the Papal star for his work in the community. Since William Salmons death in the summer of 1988 the Salmon family continue to run their business at the Rivington Hall Barn and Great House Barn and through enterprise the buildings are maintained and enjoyed to this day by the public.[31]

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1786 Map of Rivington and Anglezarke,



"Rivington Lakes"

View of Rivington from Stones House, Anglezarke by Frederick William Hulme, 1872

